

## Amended Claims under Article 34

1. (Amended) A polypeptide obtained by cleaving DANCE with a DANCE-specific protease, which consists of an amino acid  
5 sequence having 90% or more sequence identity to an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:6, and has one or more activity selected from the group consisting of integrin-binding activity and homo-complex formation activity.
- 10 2. (Amended) A polypeptide of any of following (a)-(c):
  - (a) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:6;
  - (b) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:10; or
  - 15 (c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:14.
- 20 3. (Amended) A polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 1.
4. (Amended) A polynucleotide of any of following (a)-(c):
  - (a) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:5;
  - (b) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown  
25 by SEQ ID NO:9; or
  - (c) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:13.
- 30 5. (Amended) A polypeptide obtained by cleaving DANCE with a DANCE-specific protease, which consists of an amino acid sequence having 90% or more sequence identity to an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:8, and has one or more activity selected from the group consisting of lysyl oxidase-binding activity, lysyl oxidase-like-1-binding activity and LTBP2-

binding activity.

6. (Amended) A polypeptide of any of following (a)-(c):

5 (a) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:12; or

(c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:16.

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7. (Amended) A polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 5.

8. (Amended) A polynucleotide of any of following (a)-(c):

15 (a) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:7;

(b) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:11; or

20 (c) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:15.

9. A method of cleaving DANCE, which comprises contacting DANCE with a DANCE-specific protease.

25 10. An antibody having specific affinity for the polypeptide of claim 1 or 2.

11. A monoclonal antibody having specific affinity for the polypeptide of claim 5 or 6.

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12. (Amended) A method of determining an amount of DANCE cleaved, comprising measuring the amount of DANCE cleaved with DANCE-specific protease in a biological sample from an animal.

13. (Amended) A reagent for determining an amount of DANCE cleaved, which comprises an anti-DANCE antibody.

14. A DANCE mutant incorporating an amino acid mutation in the DANCE cleavage site with a DANCE-specific protease so that the mutant exhibits resistance to the protease.

15. (Amended) A polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

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16. A DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCES.

17. The complex of claim 16 which comprises at least two kinds of DANCE which are distinguishable forms.

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18. The complex of claim 16 or 17, which further comprises lysyl oxidase and/or LTBP2.

19. (Amended) A DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and LTBP2.

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20. A method of preparing a DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCES, which comprises contacting at least two DANCES to form a complex.

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21. (Amended) A method of preparing a DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and LTBP2, which comprises contacting at least one DANCE with LTBP2 to form a complex.

22. A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the activity of a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a), (b) and (c):

(a) contacting a test substance with the DANCE-specific protease;

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(b) measuring the activity of the DANCE-specific protease resulting from the step (a) above, and comparing the activity with an activity of a DANCE-specific protease obtained without contacting the test substance;

- 5 (c) selecting a test substance that regulates the activity of the DANCE-specific protease on the basis of the results of the comparison in (b) above.

23. The method of claim 22 which is a method for identifying a  
10 regulator of the formation of elastic fibers.

24. (Amended) A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the activity of a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a), (b) and (c):

- 15 (a) administering a test substance to a non-human animal;  
(b) measuring the activity of the DANCE-specific protease resulting from the step (a) above, and comparing the activity with an activity of a DANCE-specific protease obtained without administering the test substance;
- 20 (c) selecting a test substance that regulates the activity of the DANCE-specific protease on the basis of the results of the comparison in (b) above.

25. A screening method for a substance capable of regulating  
25 the formation of a DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCES, which comprises the following steps (a), (b) and (c):

- (a) contacting at least two DANCES in the presence of a test substance;
- (b) measuring the amount of the DANCE complex resulting from  
30 the step (a) above, and comparing the amount with the amount of the DANCE complex obtained in the absence of the test substance;
- (c) selecting a test substance that regulates the formation of the DANCE complex on the basis of the results of the

comparison in (b) above.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein at least two kinds of DANCE which are distinguishable forms are used.

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27. (Amended) A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the formation of a DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and LTBP2, which comprises the following steps (a), (b) and (c):

10 (a) contacting at least one DANCE with LTBP2 in the presence of a test substance;

(b) measuring the amount of the DANCE complex resulting from the step (a) above, and comparing the amount with the amount of the DANCE complex obtained in the absence of the test  
15 substance;

(c) selecting a test substance that regulates the formation of the DANCE complex on the basis of the results of the comparison in (b) above.

20 28. A regulator of the formation of elastic fibers obtained by the method of any one of claims 23 to 27.

29. A screening method for a DANCE-specific protease with DANCE cleavage activity as the index.

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30. A DANCE-specific protease obtained by the method of claim 29.

31. (Amended) A polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide  
30 sequence that encodes the DANCE-specific protease obtained by the method of claim 29.

32. (Amended) An agent for regulating the formation of elastic fibers comprising the DANCE-specific protease of claim 30 or

an expression vector thereof.

33. (Amended) A kit for forming a DANCE complex, comprising the following (a) and (b):

- 5 (a) DANCE or DANCE expression vector;
- (b) at least one of the following components (i) to (vi);
- (i) DANCE which is a distinguishable form from the DANCE (a);
- (ii) an expression vector of DANCE which is a distinguishable form from the DANCE (a);
- 10 (iii) LTBP2;
- (vi) LTBP2 expression vector.

34. A method of identifying a cell expressing a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a) to (b):

- 15 (a) contacting DANCE with a certain animal cell;
- (b) determining whether or not the DANCE is cleaved.

35. (Added) A fraction having an activity of cleaving DANCE.

20 36. (Added) An agent of cleaving DANCE, which comprises the fraction of claim 35.

37. (Added) The agent of claim 36, which is an agent of regulating the formation of elastic fibers.